The Rural District Council of the Isle of Axholme

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1950.

Caldicotts, Printers, Trinity Street, Gainsborough.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF THE
ISLE OF AXHOLME
1950

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor G Chessman, J.P., C.C.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor A. W. Cranidge.

Health Committee:

Chairman: Councillor G. C. Hurst (Belton).
Councillor W. J. Barnard (Haxey).
Councillor G. W. Chester (Crowle).
Councillor H. R O. Chipp (Haxey).
Councillor F. W. Clark (Crowle).
Councillor R. E. Cock (Luddington).
Councillor W. Cockin (West Butterwick).
Councillor S. T. Holmes (Owston Ferry).
Councillor Mrs. E N. Johnson, J.P. (Belton).
Councillor H. S. Justice (Haxey).
Councillor H. Mason (Crowle).
Councillor H. A. Morris (Epworth).
Councillor W. A. Pyecroft (Owston Ferry).
Councillor G. W. Shipley (Eastoft).
Councillor S. G. Slatford (Wroot).
Councillor A. Stanberry (Epworth).
Councillor G. F. Stones (Althorpe).
Councillor A. L. Thornton (Amcotts).

Clerk of the Council:

S. W. Chester, Esq., A.C.C.S.

Staff of Public Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. J. C. Macartney.
Senior Sanitary Inspector: Mr. J. T. Battye.
Additional Sanitary Inspector: Mr. W. R. H. Gilling.

Isle of Axholme Rural District Council

Annual Report of The Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Axholme Rural District Council.

1st August, 1951.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting this Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1950. The information given is in accordance with prescribed requirements for submission to certain Ministries and other bodies.

The total population has risen slightly to 14,140. A satisfactory state of health has been maintained and the well known longevity of the people has continued at a high level. The Death Rate, per 1,000 of the population, compares well with the figure for all England and Wales. The Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 Live Births showed a rate which compared unfavourably with the very excellent records of each of the two precedings years. The majority of these Deaths occurred in the first four weeks of life and where such are due to premature births or congenital defects there is but little scope for prevention. The Birth Rate again was high and much above that for other areas

It is very gratifying that the incidence of Infectious Diseases was low, the majority having been measles cases. No deaths were due to infectious diseases, which is a happy contrast to the previous year's record of one death from an imported case of Smallpox and three deaths from Infantile Paralysis. One case of mild Diphtheria occurred in an adult, which broke our record of freedom from this disease during the three years previously. There were, however, no secondary cases of this disease which was contracted outside the district. There are still too many parents who fail to take advantage of having their children protected by immunisation against this deadly disease. Too much complacency might result in doubtful prospects for the future.

In conclusion, I wish to express gratitude to all Councillors for their sympathatic attitude towards Public Health matters. My thanks are also due to Mr. Battye and Mr. Gilling, your Sanitary Inspectors, for their loyal and helpful co-operation at all times. Likewise, Mr. Chester, Clerk of the Council and his staff have given much assistance during the year.

Yours faithfully,

J. C. MACARTNEY,

M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

SECTION A.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Rural District	51,104 acres
Estimated Population	14,140
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1950	£34,311
Sum represented by 1d Rate	£133/18/7

The essential industry of the District is agriculture, with the usual small industries ancillary to agriculture. The drainage of the area has resulted in this becoming a very fertile food production district.

A large grain silo and seed dressing depot and a grass drying plant are at Epworth. Also a very large electricity generating station is in course of erection at Keadby for the British Electricity Authority. Other industries are Tillage Works, Brickyards, Agricultural Machinery work, and Builders' businesses.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	125	133	258
Legitimate	118	121	239
Illegitimate	7	12	19
Still Births	1	2	3
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Birth Rate, per 1,000 of Estimated Population 18.2

DEATHS.	Male	Female	Total
All Causes	79	91	170
Infants under one year	6	8	14

Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population 12.02

Infantile Mortality Rate 54.2

COMPARATIVE TABLES.

BIRTHS.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
1950	125	133	258	18.2
1949	141	124	265	18.8
1948	145	110	255	18.58
1947	133	128	261	19.69
1946	140	150	290	22.96
1945	104	103	207	15.8

DEATHS

Year	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
1950	79	91	170	12.02
1949	89	93	182	12.2
1948	84	62	146	10.6
1947	86	76	162	12.22
1946	82	81	163	12.6
1945	90	83	173	13.8

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

(Deaths of Infants under one year).

Year			Total	‡Mortality Rate
1950			14	54.2
1949			9	33.9
1948	2	5	7	27.4
1947			14	53.6
1946			11	37.9
1945			12	57.9

	†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	‡Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales	15.8	11.6	29 8
126 Great Towns	17.6	12.3	33.8
148 Smaller Towns	16.7	11.6	29.4
London	17.8	11.8	26.3
Isle of Axholme Rural District	18.2	12.02	54 2

† Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease.	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	1	5
Tuberculosis, other	2	—	2
Meningococcal infections	—	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
Cancer	12	9	21
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	19	30
Coronary disease, angina	6	13	19
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
Other heart disease	9	12	21
Other circulatory disease	1	6	7
Pneumonia	—	3	3
Bronchitis	5	3	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	3	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—	5
Congenital malformations	—	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	9	21
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
All other accidents	3	2	5
Suicide	—	2	2
	79	91	170

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Health Information.

Enquiries relating to local health services may be made of the Medical Officer of Health, 10/12, Lord Street, Gainsborough. The County Medical Officer is Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, O.B.E., County Offices, Lincoln. Many various facilities are available under the following headings:

Maternity Service.

Child Care.

Home Nursing.

Health Visitors.

Home Help.

Sick Room Requisites, appliances and other equipment.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Mental Health.

Ambulance Service.

Minor Ailment Clinics for School Children.

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics.

The County Council's Clinics function in the Isle of Axholme at the following times and places:

HAXEY. Memorial Hall.

Combined Ante-Natal Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre.
10 a.m., 2nd and 4th Thursday in month.

EPWORTH. Thurlow Methodist Schoolroom.

Ante-Natal Clinics.
10 a.m., 2nd and 4th Wednesday in month.
Infant Welfare Centres.
2 p.m., 2nd and 4th Wednesday in month.

CROWLE. Women's Institute.

Ante-Natal Clinic.
10 a.m., 3rd Wednesday in month.
Infant Welfare Centres.
2 p.m., 1st and 3rd Wednesday in month

In addition to above, appointments are made for school and pre-school children to be seen by specialists at Scunthorpe or Gainsborough Hospitals when necessary, in cases of eye, ear, nose and throat, rheumatism and heart conditions.

B. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

General Medical Care.

The Family Doctor.

Special Maternity Services apart from the Local Health Authority Service (General Practitioner Obstetrician).

Medicines, Drugs and Appliances.

Dentistry.

Supplementary Eye Service.

C. SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Hospital and Specialist Services.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is purchased in bulk from the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board on a long term agreement. Distribution is effected by means of two water towers, one situated at Haxey and the other at Crowle. In addition to supplying the domestic needs of the District the Council provides water to industries, a large number of farms for cattle and market gardening, government camps, etc. An extension scheme was also prepared for supplying water to outlying farms. Water is available and used in all the built-up portions of each parish, as well as to a large number of premises not in the built-up areas.

Number of dwellinghouses	4,697
Number of these supplied from mains	3,750

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The new sewers at Crowle are completed and the disposal works are well advanced. It is anticipated that the whole will be completed and in operation during 1951. Detailed proposals for further schemes to serve the parishes of Althorpe and Keadby have been completed. It is anticipated that work will be commenced during 1951. Schemes for the Parishes of Belton, Epworth, Haxey and Owston Ferry are being pressed forward for approval by the Minstry of Health.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

TOTAL OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR ... 82

(1) By the Local Authority 59

(2) By other Local Authorities ..... Nil

(3) By other bodies or persons 23

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 53

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 61

(2) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 12

(3) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 20

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 5

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts ..... Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 — PART IV — OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... 32
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 40
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 250

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... Nil

(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 10

The following figures give the progress of houses erected by the Council since 1945:—

Number of Council Houses erected prior to 1945 304

Number completed since 1945 268

Number under construction 81

Total 653

SECTION E.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The provision of uncontaminated and unadulterated food supply is a problem of vital importance. Food, whether in transport, in shops, stalls, or in the home may be exposed to contamination of all descriptions through carelessness or ignorance of the danger involved. The Sanitary Inspector exercises tact and watchfulness in his inspections and supervision of food. Food byelaws are being adopted, but legislation alone will not solve the problem Proper education and goodwill of all concerned are needed in the pursuit of common cleanliness. Food poisoning is now notifiable, but no outbreaks due to identified agents or undiscovered causes were brought to my notice.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following diseases were notified in 1950:—

Measles	129
Scarlet Fever	6
Whooping Cough	30
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1
Dysentery	1
Meningitis	2
Erysipelas	1
Pneumonia	1
Diphtheria	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Total	178

The following tables show the number of cases of infectious Diseases by reference to Parishes and Month by Month.

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES.

	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Dysentery	Meningitis	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Diphtheria
Althorpe	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Belton	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Burnham	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crowle	24	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Epworth	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Garthorpe	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haxey	30	1	6	—	—	—	—	1	—
Keadby	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Luddington	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Owston Ferry ...	16	3	10	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pelfintax	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sandtoft	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
West Butterwick	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westwoodside ...	30	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wroot	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	—	—	—	—	22	4	—	—	—	24	63	16	129
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	9	1	3	15	—	—	—	—	—	30
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meningitis	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	3	1	1	11	27	8	15	—	1	25	64	16	172

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
0—5	—	—	—	1
5—10	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—
15—25	1	—	—	—
25—45	—	1	—	—
45—65	1	1	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—
Totals	3	2	—	1

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
4	1	2	—

Total 7

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948. PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	32	22	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	49	27	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	15	15	Nil	Nil
Total	96	67	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

	Want of Cleanliness	Sanitary Conveniences	Other offences against the Act (not relating to outwork)
Found	1	2	Nil
Remedied	1	2	Nil
Referred by H.M. Inspector	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of prosecutions	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK. Sections 110 and 111.

	Wearing apparel (making, etc.)	All other items
No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	2	Nil
No. of defaults, prosecutions. notices served (under all headings)	Nil	Nil